



Inside Illinois DNR

November 2022 • Volume 10, Number 11

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Message from Director Colleen Callahan



November is peak hunting season in Illinois, and while we appreciate the spirit of the hunt as a recreational activity, we also want to remind everyone that it is a partnership to help us manage deer populations and continue our vigilance of chronic wasting disease, or CWD.

CWD is a fatal disease of the central nervous system in deer and elk. Since 2002 when the first deer was diagnosed with CWD in Illinois, 150,970 wild deer have been sampled statewide, and 1,383 individual deer have been found to be infected with CWD. The disease is predominantly found in the northern third of Illinois.

Biologists track the distribution and intensity of CWD primarily through testing of hunter-harvested deer. Between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, IDNR's Wildlife Disease Program identified 218 CWD-positive deer in 18 Illinois counties: Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Will, and Winnebago.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is reminding hunters about locations where deer can be tested for CWD free of charge.

Hunters can visit participating vendors, including taxidermists and meat processors, or drop deer heads at self-serve drop-off sites. A list of locations is available online [here](#).

Locations also can be found on the [Hunt Illinois app](#) or through an [interactive map](#).

Hunters in CWD counties are strongly encouraged to have their deer tested. Hunters who plan to have their deer mounted can have a cooperating taxidermist collect the sample; testing procedures will not damage the deer skull. Hunters not using a cooperating taxidermist can bring the caped-out head to an IDNR sample drop-off barrel location where available.

Firearm deer hunters in CWD counties can get a voluntary sample taken by a biologist when they bring harvested deer to mandatory physical check stations during the firearm seasons. For a map of check stations, [click here](#). Hunters in non-CWD counties can use sample drop-off barrels or sampling vendors to have samples taken.

For more information about CWD management in Illinois, [click here](#).

Thanks again for your partnership with IDNR and happy hunting!

DNR in the News

[IDNR announces waterfowl dates](#)

[State parks posting suicide prevention signs](#)

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[Squirrel hunting](#)

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



Deer firearm season opens Nov. 18

The [Illinois Firearm Deer Hunting Season](#) is Nov. 18-21 and Dec. 1-4. Archery season continues through Jan. 15. Deer hunters statewide are encouraged to allow samples to be taken for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing for adult deer they harvest. Check the IDNR website at this [ink](#) for locations that are serving as CWD sampling stations, taking samples from entire deer or deer heads through the end of Illinois' 2022-2023 deer seasons in January.



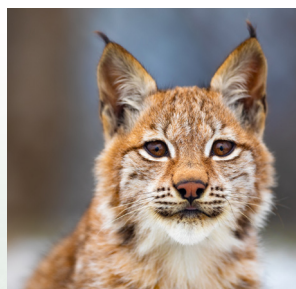
IDNR announces 2022 chronic wasting disease sampling locations for deer hunters

IDNR is reminding deer hunters about locations where deer can be tested for chronic [wasting disease \(CWD\)](#) free of charge. CWD is a fatal disease of the central nervous system in deer and elk. Since 2002 when the first deer was diagnosed with CWD in Illinois, 150,970 wild deer have been sampled statewide, and 1,383 individual deer have been found to be infected with CWD. The disease is predominantly found in the northern third of Illinois.



Fort de Chartres Winter Rendezvous and Woods walk

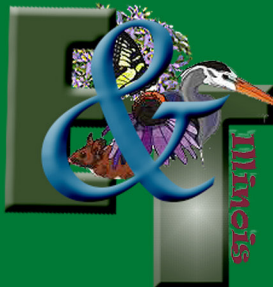
Plan to attend the [Fort de Chartres Winter Rendezvous](#) at Fort de Chartres State Historic Site in southwest Illinois on Nov. 5-6. This event features 18th and early 19th century camp life and re-enactors who participate in a muzzleloader woods walk shooting competition. The rendezvous is fun both for the participants demonstrating frontier life from 1700-1820 and for visitors spending an autumn day wandering among the tents, campfires, and historic French colonial fort. The event is open and free to the general public. This event is hosted by Les Coureurs des Bois de Fort de Chartres and sponsored by Les Amis du Fort de Chartres.



Bobcat hunting permit lottery results posted

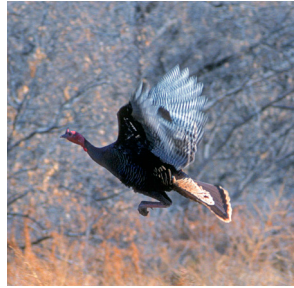
The [2022-2023 bobcat hunting](#) and trapping permit lottery results are in. Applicants can log into their ExploreMoreIL account [here](#) for information. Successful applicants will receive their permits in the mail.

Highlights



2023 Illinois fishing tournament applications

[Application are now being accepted](#). As of Nov. 1, fishing tournament organizers can apply to the IDNR for 2023 fishing tournament permits.



Illinois residents may apply for the 2023 spring turkey hunting permit lottery

Applications are being accepted from Illinois resident hunters through Dec. 1, for the first lottery drawing for [2023 Illinois Spring Turkey Permits](#).



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Illinois State Museum celebrates Día de los Muertos

The Illinois State Museum (ISM) announced its new exhibition, "[Honrando a Nuestros Ancestros: The Bridge Between the Living and the Dead](#)" celebrating Día de los Muertos, is now open in Springfield. Produced in collaboration with the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage, Hispanic Women of Springfield, and students from the Diversity Center at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS), the exhibition has five ofrendas created to honor those who have passed away. It also features 10 brightly colored alebrijes created by Mexican artists.



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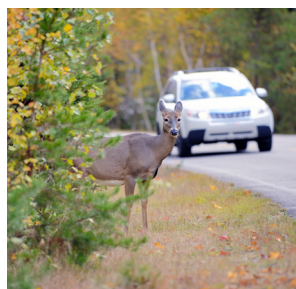
Upland seasons 2022-2023

[Upland game seasons open in November](#). Check season dates and regulations now, for Illinois pheasant, quail and rabbit status reports for 2022, visit the IDNR website.



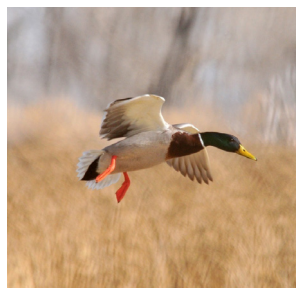
2022-2023 furbearer trapping season opens

[Furbearer trapping season](#) opens in November. Visit the IDNR website for season dates and regulations.



IDOT, IDNR remind motorists to resist the urge to swerve to avoid deer

Fall is here and while it's a beautiful time of year as the leaves change color, the Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois Department of Natural Resources are [reminding motorists](#) that deer mating season has also arrived. That means deer become more active, mainly at dawn and dusk from October through December.



IDNR announces state and federal sites open for 2022 youth waterfowl hunting seasons

Numerous Illinois state parks, state fish and wildlife areas, state conservation areas, and state recreation areas will be open to [youth waterfowl hunting](#) across the state in 2022, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources announced.



Mountain lion struck and killed by vehicle on I-88 in DeKalb County

A [mountain lion](#) (Puma concolor - cougar) was struck and killed by a vehicle on Interstate 88 in DeKalb County on Sunday, Oct. 16, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources officials announced.

Highlights



[Click for info](#)



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Woodland wonders nature hike at Argyle Lake

On Nov. 12 starting at 10 a.m., [explore the wonders of nature](#) and discuss how wildlife and plants prepare for the cold winter months to come on this morning hike on one of Argyle Lake State Park's most popular trails.



2022-2023 controlled pheasant hunting season

Pheasant hunters will need to acquire a reserved controlled [pheasant hunting permit](#) to hunt on controlled pheasant hunting sites. These permits can be acquired through the online reservation system available [here](#).



Mountain lion removed from residential area, will be transported to rescue center

IDNR, after several days of tracking and observing a [mountain lion](#) on the west side of Springfield, made the decision on Oct. 28, to tranquilize the animal and transport it to a sanctuary specializing in the care of large felines. Wildlife experts and public safety officials from IDNR, the Illinois Conservation Police, the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA WS), and the Springfield Police Department determined that the mountain lion, or cougar, that had strayed into residential and business areas of Springfield posed an imminent threat to residents and property and therefore needed to be removed.



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